

What Was Civilization Without the Telephone Girl?

BY ANNIE PIKE.

"If you have a telephone, you need never be alone."

This is a couplet used by an Eastern telephone company in its advertisement, and unlike many advertisements, it is an absolute fact. Once upon a time not far distant, the telephone was a means of reaching our friends, and those with whom we desired to do business. Today, if we are so unfortunate as to have no friend in the world, the telephone has its special use for us. It has become a counselor, dictionary, cook-book, lawyer, mathematician, musician, compiler library.

If a young man doesn't know how to propose to a girl, all he has to do is to ring up central, and she will lead him to the "Heart to Heart Talks" in the Young Woman's Journal. Instead of bursting into tears at the sight of some fish or fowl her husband has brought home with that "stupid old fellow" who is a woman is born with a knowledge of how to cook anything, the young wife needs only to step to the "phone and say, "How shall I prepare this?" and the answer comes. The young husband grows proud of the result, and a happy home is saved.

The above instances may seem stretching the case, but an actual report from the Central books will confirm them as faithful pictures. These were taken from local records:

"What are plum duff?"
"Who does accident pleasing?"
"How many gallons in an oil-tank car?"
"How many cases of smallpox in Salt Lake?"
"Where does Mrs. — teach?"
"What is round trip to Eureka?"
"When was Melba here before?"
"What date does Easter Sunday fall on?"

"What is the length of a degree on the equator?"
"How many miles from Denver to Trinidad?"

We wonder whether husband was waiting for dinner while the following was sent in:
"How do you make bread, and tomato soup?"

And here comes one with the musical query:
"What key is seven sharps?"

Was it an anxious miss of a designing mamma who telephoned, "Can Lieutenants in the United States army marry?"

And here is the housewife mentioned above. "How do you broil a fish?"

Oh, Modena, fair Modena, with thy three or four shacks and thy nice big brick weather bureau thou who art mentioned every day in reports of the weather, here is an evidence that fame is indeed but a breath. "Where is Modena? Is it in Nevada or Utah?"

It ought to make the extravagant pedagogue on forty a month pause before spending when it is considered that the telephone is also a lawyer. "Can you attach a school teacher's wages for debt?"

No wonder they asked: "What is a bar-kain matinee?" Perhaps some one who reads this will do the same thing. The most irresistibly funny and, alas, the most tragic for Dicky, supposing the information came too late, is the question, "Will a piece of orange peel kill a canary bird?"

Imagine the poor little telephone girl when such questions as these are fired at her.

"How many pounds of No. 10 copper wire, B and L gauge, does it take to run a mile?"

"What was the weight of Britt and Corbett when they entered the ring?"

"What is the weight of car rails per foot?"

"What is the population of Murray?"

"What is the compound interest on \$250 at 5 per cent for twenty years?"

"What is the tonnage of a stack of hay 100 feet wide, 40 feet long and 48 feet high the side, 100 feet old hay which has stood from last summer?"

The ground covered by the questions may be judged by the variety of these questions. "What is the seating capacity of the Grand theater?"

"Who succeeds Judge Tanner?"

"How many points can be made in one-hand cribbage?"

"What direction and how far is Cotton from Salt Lake?"

"How many miles is Bingham Junction from Salt Lake?"

"When was Coxey's army in Salt Lake?"

"How many votes did the President get in the United States?"

"When are the examinations to be held for teachers going to Manila?"

"What government is Switzerland under and governed by whom?"

"What is the county seat of Tooele?"

"What train goes to Garfield beach?"

"What time does the Brigham State prison car leave Ninth East?"

"When will the local baseball season open?"

To quote all questions would take a column. The average questioner would give little thought as to how the girls manage to answer these various questions. They do so by the aid of books on their desks, the newspapers, and men of business and professions whom they call up for technical answers. On their desks are to be found cook books, almanacs, geographies, general information books and dictionaries. If you want to know the plot of a novel, and the girl is not familiar with it, she will call up a book store and get the information. If it is a case where the information can be found in no other way, a messenger is sent out for it.

But there is a case where the telephone girl's life which are just as interesting as this, though not so well known. One of the local companies has a sitting-room fitted up for the girls. A conspicuous piece of furniture is a sewing-machine.

"I suppose that in case of accidents, to sew up tears," was said to the manager.

If she would let others get on the line, but she refused, saying good-bye to the woman soon after, and immediately calling her number. As soon as she was off, central was able to let the other fifteen on, but no doubt some of those fifteen had an idea that it was the girl's fault. It is needless to add that the trouble was fixed at the hospital.

Here are a few uses to which the telephone is being put which are not generally known. Log driving by telephone is one of the novel applications of this instrument in the northern wildernesses and the forests of Maine. Lines are run upon forest trees along the banks of rivers, and telephones which are placed in sheltering boxes are attached to trees and connected with the line. When a jam of logs occurs, warning of its formation can be given by one of the men patrolling the banks, who telephones to the drivers up the river to stop the further run of logs until the jam is broken, which task is accomplished the quicker because additional help can be telephoned for both up and down stream.

A telephone as a means of stopping a runaway horse is a novelty. A farmer recently saw a horse dashing by, with a buggy in which were two frightened women. He went to the telephone, and called up a neighbor living some distance away to look out for the horse. This the neighbor did, and with the help of some friends, stopped the animal, and rescued the women.

Telephones are now placed on board many of the steamers which tow rafts of lumber down the upper Mississippi in order to transmit orders from the boat at one end of the rafts to the boat at the other end, the wires being supported by poles set up along the rafts. As a result, much of the previous whistle-toting is no longer heard, and a great deal of work and many misunderstandings of orders are avoided.

On newly established telephone lines in small towns there is more or less listening to messages. The persons who do this have not learned that they are not only betrayed when they take down their poles, but also by the sound of their breathing. The other subscribers, knowing the names and characters of all persons on the line, soon spot these people, and sooner or later get even with them. A member of a large family addicted to this practice one day remarked, in talking with a subscriber:

"We've had our telephone fixed. It's got a rubber on the end of it now."

"It's always had one," said the woman.

Stories are now written in which the telephone girl has long been the mark of the romancer. And the question is: What next will the telephone be able to do? A telephone as a means of stopping a runaway horse is a novelty. A farmer

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THINK IT OVER.

Something You Can See in Any Restaurant or Cafe.

A physician puts the query: Have you never noticed in any large restaurant at lunch or dinner time the large number of hearty, vigorous old men at the tables, men whose ages run from 60 to 80 years; many of them bald and all perhaps gray, but none of them feeble or senile?

Perhaps the spectacle is so common as to have escaped your observation or comment, but nevertheless it is an object lesson which means something. If you will notice what these hearty old fellows are eating you will observe that they are not munching bran crackers nor gingerly picking their way through a menu card of new fangled health foods, on the contrary they seem to prefer a juicy roast of beef, a properly turned loin of mutton, and even the deadly broiled lobster is not altogether ignored.

The point of all this is that a vigorous old age depends upon good digestion and plenty of wholesome food, and not upon dieting and an endeavor to live upon bran crackers.

There is a certain class of food cranks who seem to believe that meat, coffee, and many other good things are rank poisons, but these cadaverous, sickly-looking individuals are a walking condemnation of their own theories.

The matter in a nutshell is that if the stomach secretes the natural digestive juices in sufficient quantities, any wholesome food will be promptly digested; if the stomach does not do so, and certain foods cause distress, one or two of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets after each meal will remove all difficulty, because they supply just what every weak stomach lacks, pepsin, hydrochloric acid, diastase and nux.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets do not act upon the bowels, and in fact are not strictly a medicine, as they act almost entirely upon the food eaten, digesting it thoroughly, and thus gives a much-needed rest and giving an appetite for the next meal.

Of people who travel nine out of ten use Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, knowing them to be perfectly safe to use at any time and also having found out by experience that they are a safeguard against indigestion in any form, and eating, as they have to, at all hotels and all kinds of food, the traveling public for years have pinned their faith to Stuart's Tablets.

All druggists sell them at 50 cents for full-sized packages, and any druggist from Maine to California, if his opinion were asked, will say that Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets is the most popular and successful remedy for any stomach trouble.

Condition of the Treasury.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Today's statement of the treasury balances in the general fund, exclusive of the \$100,000,000 gold reserve, shows a balance of \$125,547,066; gold, \$50,537,588.

Proper Headwear.

Our new spring shapes exhibit the careful consideration of skilled designers, both in derbies and soft goods, both in \$5 and \$3 qualities.

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Men Restored

To Full Power and Vigor of Youth.

Old as Well as Young Men, by Our Perfect Vacuum Treatment.

If you are small, weak, underdeveloped, the treatment is the only means that will fully restore and develop you. Used with our Soluble Medicated Urethral Creams, quickly cures all.

Dr. West's Urethral Medication. Drains, Varicocele, Stricture, Premature Decay, Prostate Enlargement, etc. We want every WEAK OR UNDERDEVELOPED man to write for our 100-page instructive illustrated book No. 31. It fully explains our remarkable VACUUM treatment. Ever man should read our new book. SENT SECRETELY SEALED FREE. VACUUM APPLIANCE CO., 6 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, Cal.

DR. WEST

DENTIST

FIRST-CLASS WORK. REASONABLE PRICES.

251 Main, K. P. Hall, Sign of "Didn't Hurt a Bit Boy."

14 Years in Utah, 5 Years in Same Office.

THE RETURN OF THE ROBIN

Should mark the time when you should begin to think around your old new stove. If you are contemplating matrimony, you had better start in right with a Quick Meal Burns less coal and conserves the heat to better advantage than any other make.

KING HARDWARE & STOVE CO.,

168 Main Street.

50c Bottle Free.

In nervous debility Liquezone acts as a vitalizer, accomplishing what no drugs can do.

50c Bottle Free.

If you need Liquezone, and have never tried it, please send us this coupon. We will then mail you an order on a local druggist for a full-size bottle, and we will pay the druggist ourselves for it. This is our free gift, made to convince you; to show you what Liquezone is, and what it can do. In justice to yourself, please, accept it today, for it places you under no obligation whatever.